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**Prime Minister of Curacao
dissolves Curacao's first
Government; calls for
new elections!**



Gerrit Schotte

WILLEMSTAD -- It came as no surprise to observers that the government of Curacao was on the verge of collapse. Certainly after the Prime Minister's failure to convince a close member of his own party to not withdraw his support, what ensued

in the past two days is a natural result of his decision to dissolve the government.

This is a government that has had just less than two years in office since the birth of Curacao as a new nation within the Dutch Kingdom on October 10, 2010. It was on October 10, 2010 that the Netherland Antilles of five was dissolved with Curacao becoming a separate state within the Dutch Kingdom similar to the relationship which Aruba received back in 1986.

Contrary to Curacao, Aruba successfully worked through the difficult transition phase and created solid governments and an impressive leadership model for the rest of the Antilles and the world when it became a separate state within the Dutch Kingdom 26 years ago!

Continued on page 5

**Accolades and honors for Luiz
Lara, a true friend of Aruba**

On Thursday evening, August 2, Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, joined the staff of the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and many island travel executives in honoring Luiz Lara of Brazil, a man who has personally strived for 25 years to make Aruba the premiere destination for his fellow countrymen. The stylish event was conducted in the elegant Fusion Piano/Wine Bar in the newly renovated Alhambra Casino & Shopping Mall. General Manager of Divi Properties, Alex Nieuwmeyer was proud to host the event in the resort company's newest addition to their entertainment and dining venues.



Minister Oduber, Luiz Lara and his wife Bea

ple, former ATA Director Myrna Janssen and in particular, Directors of Marketing for Latin America past and present, Mirto Granadillo and Miriam Dabian, bestowed upon Luiz the title of "Ambassador of Goodwill," and presented an original artwork by renowned native artists Elvis Tromp as a token of their admiration.

This was the crowning moment after reminiscences by Mirto of how this historic association began a quarter of a century past, as well as accolades from Minister Oduber and CEO Tjin Asjoe-Croes of Lara's remarkable achievements in Brazil on behalf of Aruba.

Continued on page 2



**Hugs with long time friend
Mirto**

Minister Oduber, with the assistance of ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association Jim Hep-

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Accolades and honors for Luiz Lara...

Continued from page 1



Luiz Lara surrounded by all his admirers at the ATA



Gift of a Painting by Elvis Tromp

Luiz Lara had been a shining star in Brazil's official tourism bureau, having opened offices for them in a number of European countries when he decided to open his own PR/Marketing firm out of Sao Paulo, Lew Lara TBWA; he

now has eight outlets worldwide, with major clients such as Apple and Nissan.

However, Aruba was his first client when he went on his own, and a lifelong friendship was forged with the ATA Director of Latin Sales at the



Alex Nieuwmeyer of Divi Properties and Jim Hepple

time, Mirto. "It was Luiz that convinced me we had an excellent market in Brazil, and he has worked tirelessly extolling Aruba's virtues and attractions to travel wholesalers and executives of that country, ever since."

When Lew Lara TBWA took over Aruba's public relations program in Brazil, the island was receiving perhaps 3,000 visitors a year. Under Luiz's direction it increased to 40,000 during the time direct flights existed, but has dialed back to 25,000 annually since they ceased and Brazilians have to make connections to come to Aruba, however, they still maintain notable numbers.

When accepting his award, Luiz and his wife Bea acknowledged the special feeling they have for Aruba. "I will continue to promote Aruba over all other Caribbean islands," he informed the gathering. "For me, and I know other Brazilians, it is the ideal vacation destination, with everything that I and my countrymen want. Beautiful resorts, excellent activities and nightlife, the wonderfully hospitable people, and most of all, a safe and secure place to travel. For me there is no other Caribbean destination to match it."

by Rosalie Klein

Illegal dumps on Aruba may be a thing of the past!



Back in April, the council of Ministers instituted a commission to work on coming up with recommendations on how to counter arrest the situation of the creation of illegal dumps across the island.

The following persons were selected to form part of the commission: Greg Peterson, representing the Minister of General Affairs, Edu Vos, representing the Minister of Justice, Chanin Roekhoudt, representing the Minister of Public Health, Gaby Werleman, representing the Minister of Infrastructure and Environment and Joyce Bartels-Daal for the private sector.

Greg Peterson was named President and Edu Vos the secretary of the commission. The commission was given a short one month to do their work and present a written document with firm recommendations for the council of Ministers.

On June 22nd, the commission completed their work, within the stipulated time frame, and submitted their report captioned: "Cero Tolerancia, Di Sushi Tera, Pa Dushi Tera." Ministers Dowers and Visser received the document on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

Continued on page 5

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Don't miss this Sunday: CCCA's Classic Car show at Casibari!



The Board of CCCA (Classic Car Club Aruba) wishes to invite everyone this Sunday, August 5th to their Classic Car Show at the Casibari Café. As of 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., the classic cars will be on display for everyone to admire. There will be many cars and the owners will be at hand to give a beautiful presentation, while show-

ing off their favorite hobby.

So, the whole family is invited to come and enjoy this car show which promises to be very entertaining, bringing back sweet memories for many of us.

Casibari will combine the auto show with a delicious BBQ, a well-stocked bar and music to top off the entertainment.

Famous ballet superstar Leonid Kozlov donates his time to teaching local children

Since purchasing a home on Aruba, international classical dance icon Leonid Kozlov and his wife, prima ballerina Adriana, have sought to involve themselves with the community, providing opportunities for young local dancers to experience the world of dance at a highly elevated level.

Kozlov Dance International, a non-profit agency dedicated to encouraging and promoting young dancers, has performed here during the end of the year, incorporating local dancers in their productions, while having welcomed island dance troupes to compete in the annual Youth Dance Festival the Kozlovs host in October.

Born in Moscow, Leonid trained at the Bolshoi Ballet School and quickly rose to the rank of principal dancer. He performed lead roles in Romeo and Juliet, Swan Lake, Don Quixote, Giselle and every important ballet in the company's repertoire. Seeking new challenges and a chance to expand his artistic repertoire, he defected to the west in 1979.

In America, Mr. Kozlov worked with major choreographers and producers including George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins and Alvin Ailey. He toured internationally as a guest artist staging a new production of The Nutcracker for the Australian Ballet, and productions of Swan Lake and

Don Quixote for the National Ballet of Chile.

Leonid Kozlov starred on Broadway in the revival and the national tour of Rogers and Hart's On Your Toes, directed by George Abbott and choreographed by George Balanchine. He eventually joined the New York City Ballet under Balanchine, where he spent 11 years as a principal dancer. Since 1989, Mr. Kozlov has been Artistic Advisor to the New Jersey Ballet. His wife Adriana is a widely admired and recognized dancer and instructor, working with him for more than ten years.

Aruba's Department of Culture recognized the opportunity of Mr. Kozlov's dedication to finding and developing talented youngsters, and together they organized a two-week program taking place over the summer break at Skol di Arte in San Nicolas. Mr. Kozlov was particularly interested in working with youngsters from the east side of the island, who often cannot afford to take regular classes at most of Aruba's dance schools located around Oranjestad, or find the transportation to attend them regularly.

Both Leonid and Adriana report they are very pleased by the ten students ages seven to 13 enrolled in the class, within only three mornings they had



The Kozlovs with Sophie, Daniella and the class

already mastered two complex routines featuring Russian folkdance and Bogie-Woogie style, providing a spirited demonstration.

"There are some very gifted young dancers here," commented Mr. Kozlov, "they display a natural grace and talent that is impressive. They also have great heart; they are enchanting and it is an absolute delight working with them. Someone once told me that Aruba is an island of dancers, from what I see here, I can believe it. I hope that these summer sessions will inspire some of them to continue to develop their dance skills. This is what I personally find most rewarding as well, keeping alive the

passion for classic dance in a new generation who have the talent and determination to make it a way of life."

Assisting the Kozlovs in the summer dance program are two of their star students from their New Jersey studio, Sophie Greenspan and Daniella Bycov, who share their dedication to the art. The Kozlovs hope to see this summer program offered annually, to attract and encourage more island dancers wishing to explore and develop their talents, as well as offer opportunities to connect with the dance world on an international level.

by Rosalie Klein



Adriana takes them through the routine

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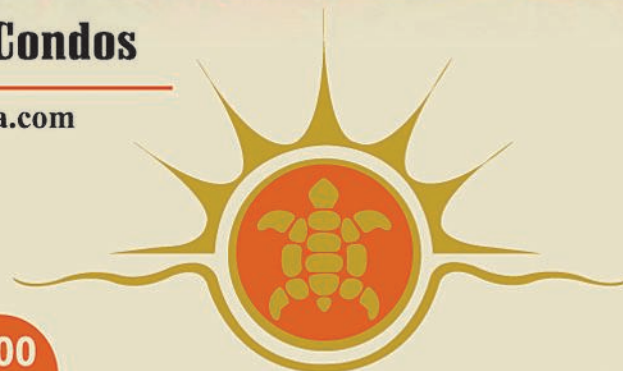
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Illegal dumps on Aruba...

Continued from page 2

During the presentation of the report, Greg Peterson, speaking for the commission, gave a very brief resume of the recommendations and shared how grave the situation is and the consequences of the illegal dumps for the island. According to Greg Peterson, the phenomenon of illegal dumps is something that has been ongoing for several years to the point that it has become almost uncontrollable with its dire consequences for the environment, nature and human life.

Peterson indicated that back when the government had introduced a gate fee to the Parkietenbos dump, many construction and other companies who refused to pay the fee decided to begin dumping their debris either on their own property or on other third party properties, or on even on government properties. This resulted in us having numerous illegal dump sites creating foul stench, rats and insect infestations, as well as fire hazards in many neighborhoods. Each illegal dump is a threat to general public health.

Among the many recommendations mentioned in the elaborate report, they indicate that the Parkietenbos should be designated by law, the only legal dump assigned by the government. In this fashion, the government can legally shut down all other illegal dumps immediately. To instruct a coordination team and a swipe team that would monitor and control whether or not people are dumping where they ought and not violating the dumping laws. They also recommend that stricter laws be implemented with stiffer sanctions.

Ministers Dowers and Visser were both grateful for the work done by the commission in the short time that they had. They assured the group that the Council of Ministers will give careful consideration to their recommendations.

Prime Minister of Curacao dissolves Curacao's first Government...

Continued from page 1

Prime Minister Gerrit Schotte of Curacao decided around 10 o'clock yesterday morning to throw in the towel for his almost two years government. The submission of his resignation to the Governor of Curacao yesterday morning marked the end to Curacao's first Parliament after their October 10, 2010 historic beginning as a new nation within the Dutch Kingdom.

After failing to convince party member, Dean Rozier, not to withdraw his support, there was no more basis for the government. Schotte intends to continue as a lame duck gov-

ernment until elections are held. Rozier, on the other hand is pushing for the installation of a "Business Cabinet" until elections, so that the current coalition can step down and walk away immediately. In a letter to the other Parliamentarians, this is what Rozier is urging them to support.

Today, regrettably, we share with our readers this letter written by the Prime Minister of Curacao, announcing the demise of Curacao's very first government after their new status:

"In view of the recent political developments in Curacao,

the government of Curacao is of the opinion that it may be prudent to allow the people of Curacao, by means of free elections, to decide who they want to represent them in Parliament.

"The situation of our country requires firm management that would bring about necessary decisions to resolve the financial situation and improve the socio-economic situation. To achieve this the government must be guaranteed a solid majority in Parliament that is sufficiently representative of the actual opinion of the people.

"This has led the government to decide to dissolve Parliament in its actual constellation. This decision is based on article 53 of the State Government Decree of Curacao. The government has sent the required decree to the Governor of Curacao for his signature. Subsequently, the government is submitting its resignation.

"Elections for a new Parliament will take place on October 19th, 2012. The final date for nominating candidates for this election is August 31st, 2012 by 10:00 am. The new

Parliament in its new constellation will conduct their first meeting on November 2, 2012 at 10:00am

"The political developments have directed the people of Curacao to decide within such a short span of time the political course of Curacao and to so doing resolve the impasse which has evolved due to an imbalance of the political relations upon which the government stands and to create clarity for all the people."

Gerrit F. Schotte
Prime Minister of Curacao



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Aleppo protesters demand death for Assad

ALEPPO (AFP) - Protesters in Aleppo took to the streets yesterday to demand death for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad even as violence raged there and 19 people were killed nationwide, an AFP journalist and a watchdog said.

Hundreds of protesters gathered in Al-Shaar neighbourhood of the country's economic capital, chanting: "The people want the execution of Bashar!" and "The people want freedom and peace."

"We go down the street with a single objective: the liberation of the country," said 20-year-old protester Abu Ahmed.

"Today you can take to the streets. Before there were shabiha" pro-regime militiamen, he said. "For 20 years we supported the military, but in fact this army is against us."

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported demonstrations in the Saif al-Dawla, Furqan and

New Aleppo neighbourhoods in western Aleppo, as well as in Sukari, Bustan al-Qasr and Fardoss in the south.

It also reported protests in the Kurdish region of Hasakeh, Daraa province of southern Syria and Idlib province to the northwest, where one demonstrator was shot dead by regime forces.

Also in Idlib, five rebels were killed in an army ambush, the Observatory said.

Shells rained down on rebel positions in the northern city of Aleppo ahead of a UN vote yesterday to deplore both the regime's use of heavy weaponry and world powers for failing to agree on steps to end the conflict.

Fierce clashes broke out between regime troops and rebels in the opposition stronghold of Salaheddin as well as in Martini in central Aleppo, while four civilians were killed elsewhere in the province, the Observatory said.



A Somali internally displaced person, wades through water at an IDP camp among the cloth and twig shelters, following heavy rain and flash floods in the Somali capital, Mogadishu. The endorsement of a draft constitution by Somalia's constituent assembly on Wednesday is seen as a sign of hope for the restoration of order in the horn of Africa nation that has not had a central government for clear over two-decades and social services have crumbled into the dust bowl that development stifled by instability has given rise to in almost all of the country's south-central region. (AFP PHOTO)

Commission urges death penalty ban in the Americas

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights yesterday urged the few nations in the American continent where the death penalty is legal to abolish the practice, or at least impose a moratorium.

The Washington-based IACHR "calls on a moratorium in the application of the death penalty in the states of the region that still apply it," the commission said in a statement.

Those countries include the United States, Cuba and Guatemala, as well as Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean.

The commission, an autonomous body of the Organization of American States (OAS), released a report yesterday on the death penalty in the Americas, examining executions in the United States, Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago since the 1990s.

The group "urges OAS member states that still have the death penalty to abolish it or, at least, to impose a moratorium to its application," the statement read.

The IACHR counts some 37 executions in the United States, three in Guatemala and three in Trinidad and Tobago that occurred despite precautionary measures issued by the commission, due to irregularities in the judicial process.

The report noted that the US case is particularly complicated, as the federal government claims it does not have the power to intervene in state judicial systems, which in the IACHR's opinion does not excuse its international commitments.

Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados are the only two countries that continue to maintain a mandatory death penalty for some offenses.

Still, "most if not all of the countries of the region that retain the death penalty have engaged in a serious re-examination of relevant laws and practices," said the report.

Guatemala and Cuba have maintained a moratorium on the application of capital punishment since 1998 and 2003 respectively.



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Parents jailed for life for 'honour killing' of daughter

LONDON (AFP) - A Pakistani-born couple were jailed for life by a British court yesterday for murdering their "westernised" teenage daughter in an apparent honour killing.

Ifthikhar Ahmed, 52, and his wife Farzana, 49, were told at Chester Crown Court in Cheshire, north-west England, that they would serve a minimum of 25 years each after suffocating their 17-year-old daughter Shafiea in 2003.

In a high-profile case, Shafiea's sister Alesha had told the jury that her mother had said, "Just finish it here," as they forced a plastic bag into Shafiea's mouth in front of their other children.

Prosecutors said the Ahmeds, who lived in the town of Warrington, near Chester, killed their daughter because they felt her "western" habits such as wearing make-up and talking to boys brought shame on the family.

Passing sentence, judge Roderick Evans told the pair: "Your concern about being shamed in your community was greater than the love of your child."

"Shafiea was a determined, able and ambitious girl who wanted to live a life which was

normal in the country and in the town in which you had chosen to live," he said.

"She was being squeezed between two cultures -- the culture and way of life that she saw around her and wanted to embrace, and the culture and way of life you wanted to impose on her."

Ifthikhar Ahmed stood impassively as the sentence was passed, while his wife sobbed.

The jury had unanimously found them guilty earlier yesterday after 11 hours of deliberation.

Shafiea had disappeared in September 2003, and her body was found five months later on a riverbank in Cumbria, north-west England.

The court heard that she had been drugged and taken to Pakistan in February 2003 to be forced into a marriage with a much older man.

She was so terrified of the marriage that she drank bleach, and was taken back to Britain where she spent eight weeks in hospital.

Shortly before she was taken to Pakistan, she had run away from home and asked the local authority to provide her with emergency accommodation, the court heard.

Honduras bans guns in violence-hit Colon region



The Honduran Congress has voted to ban the carrying of weapons in a region beset by land disputes and drug-trafficking violence.

The area has seen a jump in violence, attributed in part to drug gangs operating there.

There is also an ongoing conflict over land, focussed on the fertile Bajo Aguan valley which is dominated by palm oil plantations.

Honduras has the world's highest murder rate: 86 murders per 100,000 people

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

NGO: Shelling of Syria refugee camp kills 21 civilians

BEIRUT (AFP) - Shelling of the Yarmuk Palestinian refugee camp in the Syrian capital killed at least 21 civilians, including two children, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said yesterday.

The watchdog said the mortar shells slammed into the camp, on the southern outskirts of Damascus, on Thursday night, as President Bashar al-Assad's regime pressed its bid to crush an uprising that erupted almost 17 months ago.

Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said the shelling occurred as clashes flared between government troops and opposition fighters in the nearby Damascus neighbourhood of Tadamun.

"We demand an international investigation. We do not know the origin of the shelling," Abdel Rahman told AFP in Beirut on the telephone.

The Observatory also reported heavy shelling overnight around Houla, a town in the central province of Homs where at least 108 people were massacred at the end of May,

triggering international outrage.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in Syria since the anti-Assad revolt began in March 2011, according to the Observatory.

Haseeb Mohamed of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights - Syria Branch told AFP that four shells again hit the Yarmouk camp yesterday morning, but there were no casualties.

Mohamed said Syrian security forces were now carrying out a "campaign of raids in neighbourhoods adjacent to the camp."

He said the atmosphere inside the camp was tense due to "security coordination between the Popular Front (for the Liberation of Palestine) General Command, headed by Ahmed Jibril, and the Syrian security forces."

Meanwhile, "hundreds of Palestinian fighters from the camp are fighting alongside the Free (Syrian) Army in the adjacent district of Tadamun."

Mohamed on Thursday said that members of the Popular

Front were stationed throughout the camp, along Palestine Street and in Tadamun, under the pretext of protecting the camp.

An amateur video posted on YouTube appears to show a demonstration against the regime last night in the streets of Yarmuk camp. "Ahmed Jibril, you deserve to die!" they chanted.

Four children killed by Haiti witch doctor

Four children from the same family have been found dead in Haiti after being treated by a witch doctor who claimed to be able to cure them of a mysterious illness, a local official said yesterday.

"Three girls and a boy, the eldest of whom was seven years old and the youngest only 15 months, suffered abuse from the healer who was treating them," said Wilfrid Brisson, an official from the southern town of Marbial, told AFP. "They were then abandoned in their mother's bed."

According to neighbors, the sorcerer -- who was assisted by his brother -- persuaded the victims' mother that the children were possessed by a demon and said he could rid their soul of the devil.

The witch doctor and his brother beat the children repeatedly, in steps they said were necessary to expel the demon, and the youngsters died from the blows, said Brisson.

The alleged killers have apparently fled to the capital Port-au-Prince. An investigation by authorities in Marbial is under way and the children's mother is in custody.

Mladic cousin 'hid war crimes fugitive for five years'

BELGRADE -- A cousin of Bosnian Serb ex-army chief Ratko Mladic said he hid the war crimes fugitive for five years in his house in northeastern Serbia, a local daily reported yesterday.

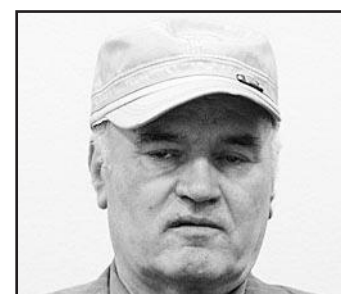
Branislav Mladic told the Vecernji Novosti daily that he had also nursed his cousin through a stroke and at one point feared he might die. In the end, police arrested Mladic at the house in 2011.

Ratko Mladic, now on trial at the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, is a "member of the family and I refuse to disown him," he told the paper.

"What kind of person would I be if I had refused to help my cousin?" he asked.

A Serbian court is considering what action to take against Branislav Mladic for harbouring the fugitive. He said he would learn his fate next Wednesday.

Bruno Vekaric, a spokesman for Serbia's war crimes court, told AFP that prosecutors had reached a deal with



Branislav Mladic "that he pleads guilty and in exchange he will be given a suspended sentence of one year."

Branislav Mladic told the paper he had stayed in touch with his cousin in The Hague with phone calls and letters.

Ratko Mladic was on the run for 16 years before being arrested on May 26, 2011, at his cousin's house in the village of Lazarevo, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) northeast of Belgrade.

The 70-year-old is being tried by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in Bosnia's 1992-95 war.

The inter-ethnic conflict in the former Yugoslav republic claimed some 100,000 lives



Elizeu Carlos, 22, dances during a performance in downtown Lisbon on August 1, 2012. Carlos is one of the five hip hop dancers who used to earn his living by teaching hip hop and was also hired to dance at festivals. However in the last two years, the dancers had fewer students and fewer requests to perform at festival gigs, forcing them to head out to dance on the streets as a means to support themselves



Chinese border guards help a tourist who got trapped near the beach as winds whip up waves in Taizhou, Zhejiang province on August 2, 2012. Gales and rainstorms lashed coastal regions in east China when two typhoons made landfall in less than 10 hours from Thursday to Friday morning, forcing over 300,000 people to evacuate, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Health & Living

US cancer body oversells mammograms: experts



PARIS (AFP) - Medical experts on Friday accused a major US breast cancer foundation known for its high-profile "pink ribbon" campaign of overselling pre-emptive mammography and understating the risks.

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation uses misleading statistics in its pro-screening campaigns, two doctors from The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice in New

Hampshire wrote in the BMJ medical journal.

"Unfortunately, there is a big mismatch between the strength of evidence in support of screening and the strength of Komen's advocacy for it," professors Steven Woloshin and Lisa Schwartz wrote.

They take issue with a Komen poster comparing the 98-percent five-year survival rate for breast cancer when caught early, with a 23-percent rate for later diagnosis.

Comparing the two figures did not tell you anything about the benefits of screening, they argued, and in reality a mammogram only narrowly decreases the chances that a 50-year-old woman will die from breast cancer within 10 years from 0.53 percent to 0.46 percent.

Breast cancer treatments are more effective today, and some question whether screening mammography has any benefit whatsoever, wrote the pair.

They accused Komen of overlooking the potential harms, with up to half of women screened annually over 10 years experiencing at least one false alarm that requires a biopsy.

Screening also results in overdiagnosis -- detecting cancers that would never have killed or even caused symptoms in a person's lifetime, and unnecessary treatment.

In 2010, a report in the New England Journal of Medicine said mammograms have only a "modest" impact on reducing breast cancer deaths.

Komen, in a response to the BMJ comment, insisted that early detection enables early treatment, which gives the best shot at survival.

"Everyone agrees that mammography isn't perfect, but it's the best widely available detection tool that we have today," said Chandini Portteus, the foundation's vice president of research, evaluation and scientific programmes.

HEALTH TIP:

CPR (or cardiopulmonary resuscitation) is a combination of chest compressions and rescue breathing (mouth-to-mouth resuscitation). If someone isn't circulating blood or breathing adequately, CPR can restore circulation of oxygen-rich blood to the brain. Without oxygen, permanent brain damage or death can occur in less than 6 minutes. If a person is unresponsive and not breathing you need to start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) right away. Gasping is not breathing! Unresponsive mean appears lifeless, doesn't move or respond when shoulder is tapped. Yell for someone to call Emergency and get started. Cardiac arrest can strike at any age and may be caused by many conditions, including heart attack, suffocation, allergic reaction, drowning, choking, or electric shock.

Quick CPR Reference Card



Step 1

Call your local Emergency



Step 4

Position hands in the center of the chest



Step 2

Tilt head, Lift chin, Check breathing



Step 5

Firmly push down 2 inches on the chest 15 times



Step 3

Give 2 Breaths

Continue

with 2 breaths and 15 pushes until help arrives



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GREIFSWALD : Common house mosquitoes (*Culex pipiens*) wait to be examined in a laboratory of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute on the Baltic Sea island of Riems near Greifswald, northeastern Germany, on July. 49 different mosquito species can be found, but recently some exotic species able to pass pathogenic agents of Dengue fever, Chikungunya or Yellow fever were discovered in the country.

AFP PHOTO

Toll in Uganda's Ebola outbreak rises to 16: WHO

GENEVA (AFP) - The latest outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus has killed 16 people in Uganda, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, increasing the previous toll.

"Today we have 50 suspected cases and 16 dead," WHO spokesman Tarek Jasarevic told reporters in Geneva.

For the time being the epidemic was restricted to the west of the country, Jasarevic said, adding that a single case reported in Kampala in the south of the country was the result of an infected person being brought to the capital.

Ebola broke out in early July in Uganda's western Kibale district, some 200 kilometres (120 miles) from

Kampala, and around 50 kilometres from the border with Democratic Republic of Congo.

The virus causes internal and external bleeding and spreads by direct contact with the blood or other body fluids of infected persons, according to the World Health Organization.

The rare haemorrhagic disease, named after a small river in DR Congo, killed 37 people in western Uganda in 2007 and at least 170 in the north of the country in 2000.

Neighbouring nations -- including Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania -- have warned people to report to health centres in case of Ebola-like symptoms.

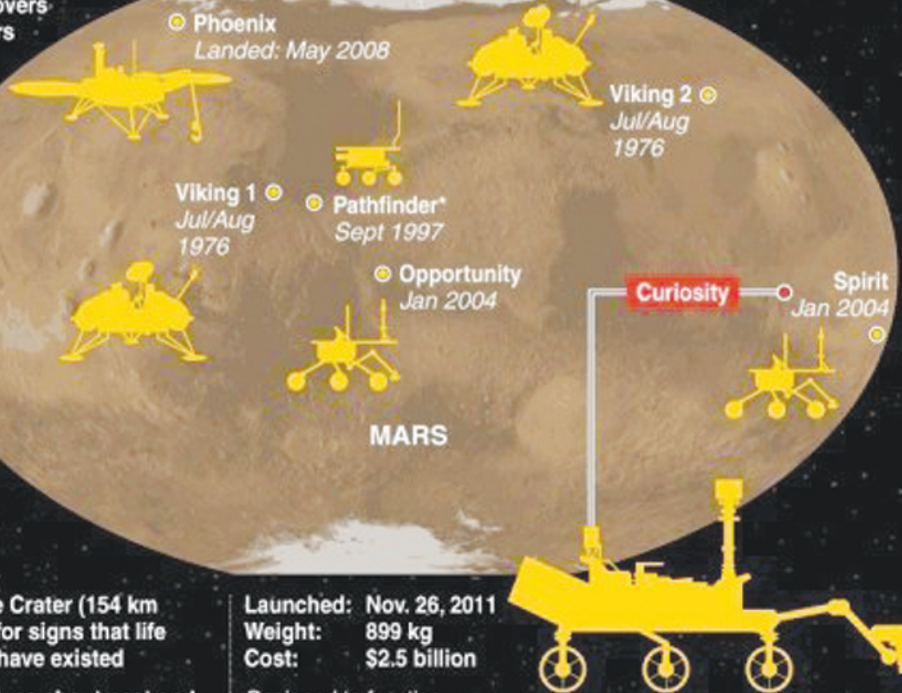
Sci-Tech

NASA confident ahead of nail-biter Mars landing

Mars landings

NASA's Mars Science Laboratory rover "Curiosity" aims to land on the Red Planet on August 6

● Previous landing sites for rovers and landers
Sizes not to scale



Mission:

- Study Gale Crater (154 km diameter) for signs that life may once have existed
- Look for clues about past and present habitable environments

Launched: Nov. 26, 2011
Weight: 899 kg
Cost: \$2.5 billion
Designed to function for 2 years

*Deployed Sojourner rover
Source: NASA

PASADENA (AFP) -- NASA said all was well ahead of its nail-biting mission to Mars, with its most advanced robotic rover poised to hunt for clues about past life and water on Earth's nearest planetary neighbor.

On a two-year journey to seek out signs of environments that once sustained life, the landing of the Mars Science Laboratory and the largest and most sophisticated rover ever built, Curiosity, is set for 1:31 am August 6 (0531 GMT).

If all continues to go well, the unmanned rover will touch down in Gale Crater, one of the lowest points on Mars, where scientists believe the waters of ancient rivers flowing downhill once pooled.

The crater also contains a mountain that rises higher than any in the 48 continental US states, and should provide loads of information about the past through its sedimentary layers.

Describing Mars as a "planet that is kind of like our cousin," John Grotzinger, project scientist for the Mars Science Laboratory said. He's hopeful that many questions would be answered on the mission, including how the once wet planet became so dry.

The mountain, Mount Sharp, is near Mars' equator and may hold as much as a billion years of history in its layers, dating back some three to four billion years ago "when the planet may have been more like Earth," he told reporters.

A complicated rocket-powered sky crane maneuver to lower the one-ton (900-kilo) vehicle onto the surface will be tested in real conditions for the first time.

Approaching Mars' atmosphere at a speed of about 13,200 miles per hour, or 5,900 meters per second, the spacecraft must separate, a super-

sonic parachute must deploy, then a rocket-powered sky crane must activate to power the vehicle closer to the surface before lowering it with nylon tethers.

One key concern is the single parachute on board, he added. Most human jumpers would carry a backup, but carrying two 100-pound parachutes was not possible for this mission.

It may be 15-20 minutes after the landing itself until NASA knows exactly what happened to its rover, which is twice the size of its vehicles Spirit and Opportunity. They launched in 2004 and landed with the help of airbags.

Scientists are also monitoring the weather on Mars and will give an update today. Generally, this is a cold time of year on the Red Planet, with lots of water-ice clouds, but the potential for dust storms remains a concern.

The mobile toolkit on the rover is expected to begin its work within weeks of the landing, but one instrument for detecting radiation has already been collecting data for 221 days that could inform a future human exploration mission to Mars.

There were five radiation spikes from solar flares in that period, since the \$2.5 billion project launched in late November 2011, an amount that NASA said would make a "significant contribution to a NASA astronaut's career-limit radiation dose."

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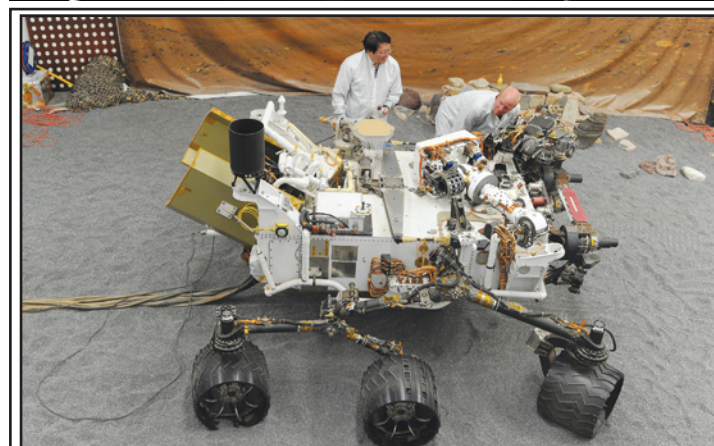
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NASA - PASADENA : Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) engineers James Wong (L) and Errin Dalshaug (R) examine a full size engineered model of the Mars rover Curiosity at JPL in Pasadena, California yesterday. NASA said all was well ahead of its nail-biting mission to Mars, with its most advanced robotic rover poised to hunt for clues about past life and water on Earth's nearest planetary neighbor. On a two-year journey to seek out signs of environments that once sustained life, the landing of the Mars Science Laboratory and the largest and most sophisticated rover ever built, Curiosity, is set for Sunday.

AFP PHOTO

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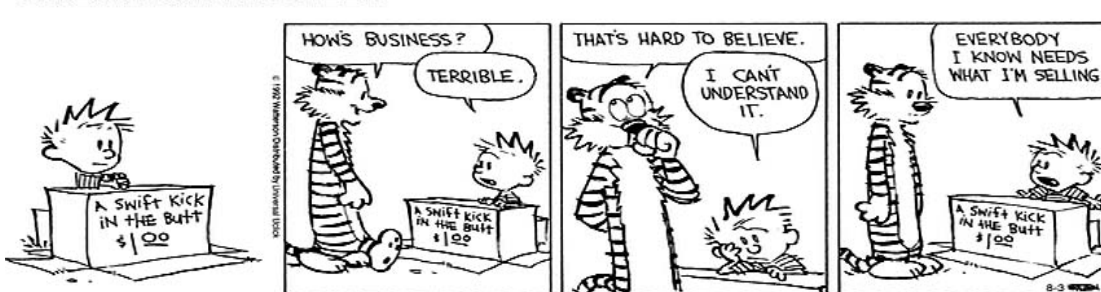
PICKLES



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CALVIN and HOBBS



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BOBBIN' ALONG

ACROSS

1. Stage item
5. Biblical book
9. Ampersand
12. Volcano's output
13. Congeal
14. Grassy spot
15. Catchall abbr.
16. Lee of "Funny Face"
17. Do the wrong thing
18. "Death Valley Days" host
21. Massage
22. Actor Gilliam
23. ___ et labora
26. Visit a diner
28. Hera's mother
32. "Out of Africa" star
36. Root ___
37. Nile's locale: abbr.
38. Trifle
39. Entrepreneur's resource: abbr.
42. Temporary fashion
44. Fonda-Cagney film of 1955
51. Humorist George
52. Symbol of Russia
53. Barn baby
54. Caddie's item
55. "Step ___!"

56. To be: Fr.

57. Otic organ
58. Paw bottoms
59. Interpret

DOWN

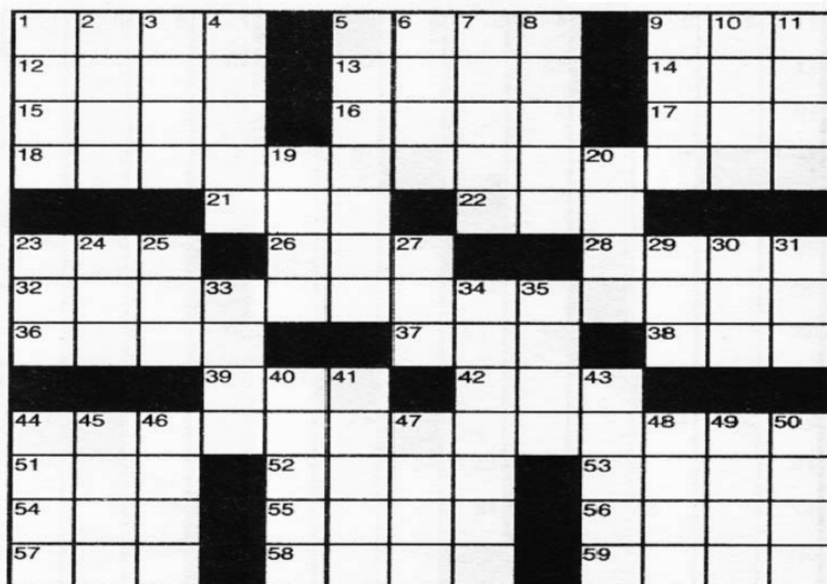
1. Implored
2. Pro ___
3. Speedway's shape
4. More faded
5. Tumbler
6. Social organization
7. Hauls
8. Commence
9. Round at the pub
10. Actor Franco
11. "Too ___ Hot" ("Kiss Me,

Kate" song)

19. Regretful one
20. Gang's ground
23. Spherical body
24. Fish delicacy
25. "___ Lincoln: Frontier Boy"
27. Song syllable
29. Chicken wing rating
30. Important time in history
31. Tot (up)
33. Formerly, once
34. Attempts
35. Unimagi-native
40. Birdland

sound

41. Sports stadium
43. Shelf
44. Captain's assistant
45. Brainstorm's baby brother
46. Palm reader
47. Sneak attack
48. Uninspiring routine
49. Actress Fitzgerald ("Hear My Song")
50. Tundra transport



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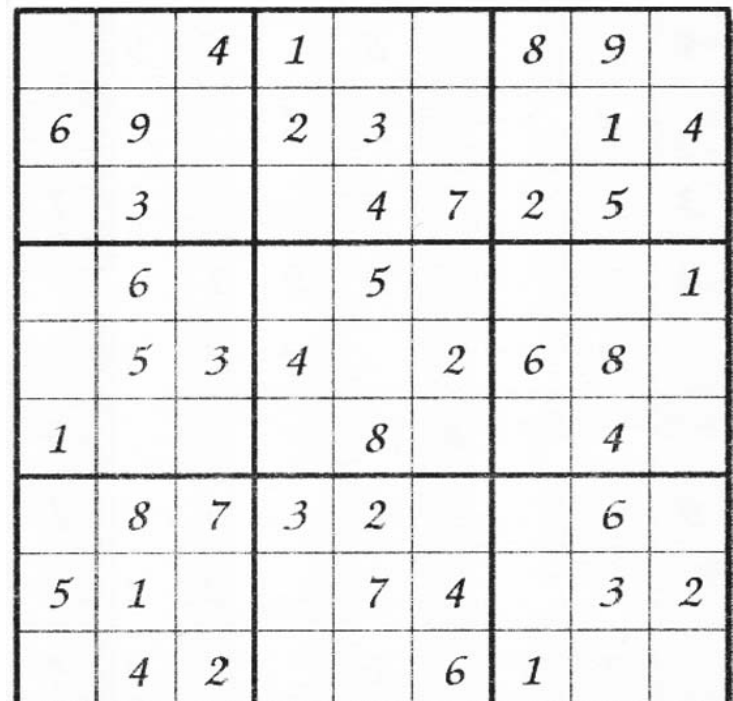
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	1	9	6	5	7	4	3	2
2	5	6	4	8	9	1	5	3
5	9	4	1	2	3	6	8	7
4	8	5	3	9	6	7	2	1
6	8	9	2	1	4	5	3	7
1	2	3	6	5	7	8	9	4
9	5	2	7	4	6	1	8	3
3	1	7	8	3	2	5	6	9
7	6	8	5	9	1	4	2	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Monday - Sunday
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Finance

Heineken to buy maker of Tiger beer for \$4.1 billion

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Dutch brewer Heineken said yesterday it has reached a deal to buy the Asian brewing group that makes Tiger beer for \$4.1 billion, as it seeks to bolster its presence in the fast-growing region.

Heineken said Singapore-listed Fraser & Neave (F&N) has accepted its offer to acquire its stake in Asia Pacific Breweries (APB), adding that the F&N board has agreed to

recommend the Sg\$5.1 billion deal to shareholders.

Heineken had earlier said that a takeover of APB would give it direct access to key Asian markets including Thailand, Singapore and New Zealand.

Heineken currently owns 41.9 percent of APB, one of Southeast Asia's biggest brewers, and taking F&N's 40 percent will give the Amsterdam company a distinctive edge over Thai Beverage Ltd.

Argentina pays off crisis bond but savers count cost

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina celebrated yesterday after paying the final \$2.19 billion installment on a bond handed to people whose savings were seized during the country's crippling economic crisis a decade ago.

When the Latin American powerhouse plunged into one of the largest debt defaults in history -- \$100 billion -- it froze bank deposits and forbade withdrawals in a

process known as the "corralito" aimed at stopping bank runs.

Argentina's national debt, which reached 92 percent of GDP in 2001, now stands at just 8.4 percent of GDP after the latest payments, according to government figures.

In order to compensate savers, the government had issued \$19.6 billion in notes to those whose accounts had been frozen.

Solid US jobs report provides shield for Obama

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US economy created a solid 163,000 jobs in July, the Labor Department said yesterday, helping President Barack Obama dull attacks from his Republican rival as the White House race intensifies.

Although the unemployment rate ticked up to 8.3 percent, the economy created many more jobs than expected, providing evidence that the world's largest economy is still on track.

"Finally, we have some good news on the employment front," said Nigel Gault, an economist with IHS Global Insight. "The report will alleviate fears that the US might be tipping back into recession."

Wall Street analysts had predicted the economy created 100,000 jobs during July.

The service, manufacturing, and food and drink sectors were among those showing gains, as the economy created more jobs than at any time since February.

With fewer than 100 days to go until the US presidential election, White House contenders seized on the report's seemingly mixed message in order to shape the tone of the debate.

Republican Mitt Romney zeroed in on the politically symbolic unemployment rate, which at 8.3 percent was the highest since February.

"Today's increase in the unemployment rate is a hammer blow to struggling middle-class families," Romney said in a statement, as he pledged to create 12 million jobs in his first term.

"We've now gone 42 consecutive months with the unemployment rate above eight percent. Middle-class Americans deserve better, and I believe America can do better."

The unemployment rate and the job creation figures are taken from two separate Labor Department surveys.

The rate is compiled through a survey of 60,000

households, while the payrolls increase comes from a poll of 140,000 businesses and government agencies.

The number of jobs created in July may make it difficult for Romney to steer the debate back onto the economy and away from issues that have seen him drop in the polls.

The last month has seen Romney criticized for not releasing more tax returns, for diplomatic missteps, for his dealings at Bain Capital and his tax plan -- which independent analysts said would raise rates for the middle class.

That has resulted in Obama opening up a two-point lead in national tracking polls as he pulls away in key swing states like Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania, leaving Romney with plenty to do if the election is not to slip through his fingers.

The White House said the report provided "further evidence that the US economy is continuing to recover from the worst downturn since the Great Depression."

Democrats will also take hope from the fact that unemployment among Hispanics fell 0.7 points to 10.3 percent and the rate for adult women stood basically unchanged at 7.5 percent -- both groups are crucial for Obama to win the election.

US markets swept aside the slight uptick in unemployment.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged 1.6 percent or 209 points while the government's cost of borrowing fell.

Yesterday's data is unlikely to be instrumental in deciding whether the Federal Reserve embarks on a new round of stimulus spending.

US Treasury to sell \$4.5 bn of AIG shares

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Treasury Department announced yesterday it will sell \$4.5 billion of its American International Group shares, with AIG lined up to buy up to \$3.0 billion of them.

AIG, which received more than \$180 billion in a government rescue amid the 2008-2009 financial crisis, has been buying back shares as it recovers profitability.

The underwriters in the latest Treasury stock offering also have a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional \$675 million in AIG common stock, the Treasury said in a statement.

The current underwriters are Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan, but others are expected to be added, the Treasury said.

AIG, in a separate statement, said the price of the AIG share being offered was \$2.50.

On Thursday AIG reported second-quarter profit surged 27 percent from a year ago to \$2.3 billion, almost double expectations, while sales fell less than estimated.

In the April-June quarter, AIG bought \$2.0 billion of its shares from the Treasury and \$6.1 billion in shares from the Federal Reserve.



FAIRVIEW, IL : Michael Colgan delivers sheep to be sold at auction at the Fairview Sale Barn on August 2, 2012 in Fairview, Illinois. Drought has forced many farmers in the area and around the Midwest to sell some or all of their sheep and cattle as they are faced with shortages of feed, water and healthy pasture land. Cattle at this auction were selling for about 25 percent less than they did in the spring when farmers were optimistic about this year's harvest. (AFP PHOTO)



Current as 08/03/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.75	1.77	1.79
Britain	GBP	2.70	2.75	2.81
Switzerland	CHF	181.35	182.07	182.87
Netherlands	EUR	216.12	218.09	220.28
Sweden	SEK	25.35	26.07	26.87
Denmark	DKK	28.33	29.05	29.85
Norway	NOK	28.62	29.34	30.14
Japan	JPY	225.47	227.53	229.82
(per 100)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ECHO	FOG	DABS
BOOT	IRA	ESAU
BOSTON	BLACKIE	
SLEEK	LISTS	
RAP	DIM	
ACT	PEAR	AJAR
PHILIP	MARLOWE	
TINY	PIM	TED
REY	ATE	
CLAIM	SLABS	
HERCULE	POIROT	
INGA	ORE	TINA
POOL	PAW	EDDY



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8 Things to do to Prepare for Natural Disasters and Emergencies

Thank God, Aruba is outside of the hurricane belt, at least this is what the weather experts tell us. However, just because we're outside the hurricane belt does not mean that we cannot get severe bad weather accompanied by heavy or torrential rains and gusting powerful winds which can do considerable damage and be deadening to people.

The purpose of today's article is to offer some simple, yet important tips that could prove extremely helpful if we were to face a major weather disaster or other life threatening emergency.

We know that whenever a major disaster or emergency strikes, hundreds of lives can be turned upside down in a matter of minutes.

And because the weather in general is not always predictable with precision, you and your family could be faced with a weather disaster or emergency at any given time. So, if so, what must we do? How must we handle such a scenario?

Our humble advice is... have a definite plan! Somebody said "...if your plan is not perfect it will do no good." Well, true, but then again no plan is perfect. But if you have a plan you will be much better off than to not have one at all. Thus, this is a great time to sit down and design your plan for any eventual disaster or emergency situation.

Here's our list of 8 simple things you can do in preparing for a weather disaster or any other kind of disaster for that matter:

1. Have at least two weeks of food in the house

When a disaster or an emergency strikes, you never know what is going to happen. But one thing is certain, food and other emergency supplies disappear off store shelves within a very short time, sometimes within a matter of hours people will buy up everything, leaving

nothing for those who may go in later. This is why you want to make sure and keep a supply of vital foods (preferably imperishable food like canned or bottled stuff) in your cupboard. If a major disaster strikes you may not be able to get out of your house to get food so make sure you have enough for at least 14 days in your storage!

2. Have an "Emergency Travel Bag" (ET Bag) Ready to go



If bad weather or other disaster strikes, you may only have a couple of minutes before you have to race out your door to safety. If you have a travel bag already packed to go you can just grab this and flee! Your "ET Bag" should contain some food, water, a well-functioning flashlight, a battery-powered radio, some money, copies of important documents, medicine (if you take any) and some first aid supplies.

3. Have a plan and know where you're going for shelter

You can't just run for shelter without knowing where that is going to be, and who is going to receive you there, etc. Without a specific plan you will be endlessly running around trying to find a place only to put yourself unnecessarily into harms way. Have a plan, albeit a flexible plan that can be adapted to the situation and the circumstances.

4. Have an alternative energy supply source

It is a given that during bad weather or other type of emergency situations you will most

probably experience a power black out. It happens almost ever time! That is why it is crucial to have a battery-powered radio, a battery-powered (or solar) flashlight and extra batteries in your home. If you can afford a special emergency light, hanging from a central wall in your house, that would be ideal. With your emergency light you need to know (because you planned it) what you're going to do when the power goes out. Without electric light to see your way around, you can end up getting really badly hurt.

5. Have Enough Water Stored Up

If the disaster you have to prepare for and get away from is flooding or torrential rains, you might think that with all that water pouring down you shouldn't have a problem with drinking water. Reality is that you WILL have a problem with finding adequate clean drinking water. You will definitely need drinking water for your survival. So, be sure to have a good supply in your storage. Have enough to drink and to use for other hygiene purposes.

6. Have Respect For the Power of Natural Disasters

Some people today like to make fun at just about everything. They like to make a joke out of anything and everything, even out of a natural disaster. But, anyone who has been in a natural disaster will tell you that it is no laughing matter...it is no joke! This means that we must not take them lightly. We must respect the awesome power of natural disasters. Whenever the heavens shake and thunder rolls, we the creatures of God must stand in awe and respect the hand of God in His own creation. Those who fail to respect nature may end up dead. So, get away, run for safety and ask God to protect and save you!



7. Living near the Sea Can Be Very Dangerous

Many Arubans live near the ocean; some live just a stone's throw from the sea. Those who live close to the ocean or within a few kilometers from the sea need to be so much more cautious and prepared. The sea can and has risen high above its normal level and overflow unto the shoreline and invade homes and other buildings. If you live near the ocean, your potential for danger is very great; hence your bag must be packed with that in mind. Your plan must take the sea into account in your escape route. Even if you live a good bit in from the coast, the danger for substantial flooding is always there.

8. Have all loose items brought in or securely tied down

During any disaster that involves high winds, anything

that is left outside in your yard can quickly become a very dangerous projectile. The last thing that you want is for the wind to pick up an old tire or other heavy objects and send them crashing into your home or the home of your neighbor. If you know that a major storm is coming, please bring in everything that you can from outside. Or tie down things that you can't carry into the house. Everything lying around must be removed! Well, there you have it! If you plan on storing up food, water, medicine and other emergency supplies, you need to do it ahead of time...start now! Victory belongs to the prepared. If you think that you will never find your self in the middle of a major disaster you are just being foolish.

Be prepared, do the right thing and do it now!

Porn star creates a stir in Bollywood debut



MUMBAI (AFP) - An Indo-Canadian porn star makes her Bollywood debut this week in what is expected to be one of India's raunchiest mainstream movies, which is already rais-



PRAGUE (AFP) - The frontman for US heavy metal group Lamb of God, Randy Blythe, has been freed from custody in Prague, without charge but on 237,000 euros (\$289,000) bail after his arrest over the death of a fan at a concert in the city. Blythe, 41, was detained at upon his arrival at Prague airport on June 28 in connection with the death of the 19-year-old fan at a 2010 show in the Czech capital. The fan repeatedly tried to climb onto the stage before allegedly being pushed by Blythe and hitting the concrete floor, a report by TV Nova said. He died 14 days later of his injuries. A post-mortem reportedly found that he had not been drunk or under the influence of drugs.



LOS ANGELES, (AFP) - An exhibit in honor of late pop icon Whitney Houston will open in Los Angeles next month, half a year after her lifeless body was discovered in a hotel bathtub. The exhibit, titled "Whitney!" and organized in conjunction with the singer's family, will open at the Grammy Museum on August 15. Items to be displayed include rare photos and footage of the Grammy-winning star, stage costumes, albums and career scrapbooks from her early career, as well as concert posters, tour books and fan memorabilia. The museum has also asked artists and musicians who worked with Houston or were influenced by her to share their thoughts on the pop diva. These will be shown in the form of short films. The exhibit is due to run through February 2013.

ing eyebrows in the sexually conservative country.

Sunny Leone, born in Canada to Indian parents, plays a porn actress in the Hindi film "Jism 2" (Body 2) that opens in cinemas on Friday to much buzz, as well as controversy over its provocative posters and content.

The mayor of Mumbai, Sunil Prabh, has ordered the removal of promotional posters from public buses in India's entertainment capital after a local legislator complained the image used was obscene, the Press Trust of India reported.

Earlier in the week, protesters in northwest Amritsar burned an effigy of Leone in anger at the film's alleged vulgarity, while a resident of the holy city of Varanasi has reportedly asked a court to put a stay order on the film.

Leone told entertainment channel Star World that she had had to adapt to the demands of mainstream cinema and its more sophisticated choreography, particularly for love scenes.

The award-winning porn star in the United States made her name in India in the reality television series Bigg Boss last year and declared her interest afterwards in taking on film roles.

The first movie in the series, released in 2003, starred popular actress Bipasha Basu in the lead and was a thriller woven around an extra-marital affair, again a taboo for mainstream Hindi movies.

A video of the sequel's title song on YouTube has already notched up nearly three million views over the past month.

At a promotional event for the movie in Delhi last Friday, Leone showed her ability to grab headlines by posing in white lingerie while lying on a bed.

Mocking the decision to take down the posters on Twitter, the film's director Pooja Bhatt thanked the complainants "for giving Jism 2 cult status!"

Leone says she plans to keep making adult movies in Los Angeles, where she owns her own production company, but will refrain from appearing in porn roles herself over the next couple of years.



Cool Casino... where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being

"One Cool Member"

which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand such table games as Craps

and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one

of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!





Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



Aruba's Daniella van den Berg does well in 800m freestyle in London



Aruba's only female representative at the London Olympics, Daniella van den Berg yesterday competed in the 800m freestyle. Daniella competed in the first heat in lane six. Van den Berg has a personal record of 9.18.88. At the beginning of the competition Daniella seemed a little nervous, but once in the water she managed to shake it off and still give a good presentation. Her goal was to better her personal record, but she missed it by finishing with a time of 9.23.11, and finished third in her heat. Photo shows Daniella and her coach Ismael Santiesteban.

Saudi fighter almost steals Riner's thunder

LONDON (AFP) - Wojdan Shaherkani became the first ever Saudi Arabian woman to compete at the Olympic Games on Friday and almost stole French heavyweight champion Teddy Riner's thunder.

Riner is the biggest star in the sport and has been totally dominant in the top men's division since the last Games.

He has lost only once since being beaten in the semi-finals in Beijing and here in London he fulfilled his dream of adding Olympic gold to his five world titles.

And while no heavyweight man could match him on the mat, a heavyweight woman was threatening to do so in the media headlines.

In fact, if truth be told, 16-year-old Shaherkani won the 'press interest' competition hands down with more than 100 journalists trying to talk to her after her fight.

The teenager had already become a household name ahead of her competition as a row over her wearing a hijab made the news pages the world over.



The International Judo Federation had said she would have to respect judo safety rules and fight with her head uncovered while Saudi officials claimed it was Islamic dress that would need to be adhered to or otherwise she wouldn't fight.

A compromise was reached and Shaherkani took to the mat for her historic moment wearing a swimming cap.

Her fight lasted only 82 seconds as she lost to Puerto Rico's Melissa Mojica but she left the stadium, after sharing a tearful embrace with her fa-

LONDON (AFP) - Defending champions Germany and the Netherlands posted their third straight men's Olympic hockey wins in dazzling style, as Argentina rallied from two down to hold world title-holders Australia Friday.

Germany outplayed India 5-2 and the Dutch coasted to a 5-1 victory over New Zealand to consolidate their position for semi-final berths from Pool B. Netherlands are top in the group with a superior goal difference.

Australia stay top of Pool A with seven points from three matches despite the 2-2 draw with Argentina. The world number one team have a better goal difference than Great Britain, who also have seven points after beating Pakistan 4-1.

Germany's Florin Fuchs scored three field goals against India, who have now lost all their three matches. Fuchs shot on target in the seventh, 15th and 37th minutes, while Oliver Korn (18th) and Christopher Wesley (34th) contributed one



Netherlands' Billy Bakker (2nd R) scores past New Zealand's goalkeeper Kyle Pontifex.

goal each.

V.R. Raghunath (13th) and Tushar Khandkar (63rd) scored for India.

Against the Netherlands, New Zealand took an early lead with a field goal from Simon Child in the fifth minute.

But the Dutch came back firing to take a 3-1 lead at half-time after two penalty stroke conversions by Roderick Weusthof (16th) and Mink van

der Weerden (27th), followed by an open-play strike by Billy Bakker (29th).

Bakker scored another field goal in the 56th minute before Robbert Kemperman rounded off the scoring three minutes from close.

New Zealand have three points from as many matches.

Brilliant shooting helped Great Britain equal their biggest win over Pakistan, the Asian Games champions.



LONDON (AFP) - Roger Federer fought through the longest three-set singles match in the Open era Friday when he beat Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 19-17 to reach the Olympic final. Wimbledon champion Federer was on the brink of a shock defeat on Centre Court after dropping the first set, but the world number one finally subdued del Potro after a marathon four hours and 26 minutes. The match, 23 minutes longer than Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic's Madrid semi-final in 2009, comes after Jo-Wilfried Tsonga took 66 games to beat Milos Raonic in the second round -- the most ever seen in an Olympic three-setter. The great escape means Federer, 30, is guaranteed at least a silver medal. In Sunday's final, he will face Britain's Andy Murray, who was beaten by Federer in last month's Wimbledon final. Murray, who lost to Federer in the Wimbledon final last month, produced a masterful display to beat world number two Djokovic, 7-5, 7-5, in two hours on Centre Court and the Scot is now guaranteed at least a silver medal as he heads into his first Olympic final on Sunday.

ther -- an international referee -- to a standing ovation.

"I'm proud, I'm happy and I want to continue in judo. I want to thank the fans for their support," Shaherkani said.

China's Tong Wen, who won in Beijing, had been as dominant in women's heavyweight judo as Riner had in the men's division.

She had not lost to a foreign fighter in five-and-a-half years but, despite a commanding start, was stunned in the semi-finals by Cuba's Idalys Ortiz.

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LONDON
2012

Rivals left in awe of 'perfect' British cyclists



LONDON (AFP) - Great Britain's beaten rivals had no choice but to salute the "perfect" performance of the men's pursuit team after they surged to Olympic glory in a world record time on Friday.

Defending champions Britain powered home in 3min 51.659sec at a delirious London Velodrome to leave Australia trailing in second place in a time of 3:54.581sec.

It was the second time in two days that the hosts' pursuit team had lowered the world record and Australia's Jack Bobridge admitted he and his colleagues had been powerless to resist.

New Zealand took the bronze medal for the second Olympic Games in succession, after defeating Russia by over two-and-a-half seconds in the third-place decider.

One of three survivors from the New Zealand team that finished behind Britain and Denmark four years ago, Mark Ryan said the British set-up was on "another level".

Friday's final took place at a sold-out Velodrome and the cheering reverberated from the rafters at near-deafening volume whenever a home cyclist was on the track.

As if to underline Britain's dominance in the sport, no sooner had the pursuit team

crossed the line, than Victoria Pendleton came home first in the women's keirin to give the hosts their fourth cycling gold medal at the Games.

Fewer than two weeks on from Bradley Wiggins' breakthrough triumph in the Tour de France, Ryan said the growing appetite for cycling in Britain had become a driving factor in the country's success.

"The way the crowd gets behind British cycling is just amazing," he said. "I remember a few years ago, going up to Manchester to race there, and it was always good there, but in London it's just been another level. "It's awesome to see the support they get."

Wiggins, who has won three Olympic gold medals on the track, took the road race time trial earlier this week to claim his fourth Games title.

On Thursday, Britain's men successfully defended their team sprint crown.



LONDON (AFP) - Poland's Tomasz Majewski became the first thrower in almost 60 years to retain the Olympic shot put title here on Friday as he won the first athletics gold medal of the Games. The 30-year-old threw a season's best of 21.89 metres to beat Germany's world champion David Storl, who had a best of 21.86 metres, while Reese Hoffa of the United States took bronze with 21.23 metres. Majewski emulated the feat of American Parry O'Brien, who won successive titles in 1952 and 1956. The Pole had thrown a season's best of 21.72 metres in the first round but it was only good enough for third spot behind Storl. The 22-year-old German upped the pressure with a throw of 21.86 in the second round but the Pole reacted in champion style by moving into the lead with another season's best effort of 21.87 metres. He was never headed after that and finished off in style with his 21.89 metres throw.

Saudi fighter almost steals.....

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Having defeated seven-time world champion Tong, Ortiz went on to beat Japan's second seed Maki Sugimoto in the tightest of finals, winning on a judges' decision. Despite once being the major powerhouse of women's judo, it was Cuba's first gold medal since the Sydney Games in 2000. "For me the challenge was to help maintain Cuba's results in judo. We hadn't won a gold medal since 2000 so it means a lot to me," said Ortiz. Tong went on to claim bronze alongside Great Britain's Karina Bryant.

Boxing Referee, Expelled From London Olympics

LONDON - Ishanguly Meretnyyazov, an boxing referee from Turkmenistan was expelled from the London Olympics on Thursday for his handling of a bout in which the result was overturned on appeal.

Boxing's governing federation, known as AIBA, released a statement saying referee Ishanguly Meretnyyazov "is on his way back home."

The federation also suspended German referee Frank Scharmach five days for his decision to disqualify an Iranian heavyweight, and expelled technical official Aghajan Abiyev of Azerbaijan.

Both sanctioned referees made unusual decisions during Wednesday night's card.

In a bantamweight bout, Magomed Abdulhamidov of Azerbaijan fell to the canvas six times in the third round against Satoshi Shimizu of Japan, yet still won a 22-17 decision.

Meretnyyazov allowed the fight to continue after each tumble, and he enraged the Japanese team by fixing the headgear worn by Abdulhamidov, who had to be helped from the ring after winning.

AIBA overturned the result late Wednesday night, saying Meretnyyazov should have counted at least three knock-downs and stopped the bout.

Iranian heavyweight Ali Mazaheri was disqualified in his bout with Cuba's Jose Larduet after several warnings for holding from Scharmach, who finally waved off the fight midway through the second round.

Scharmach is suspended through Tuesday's Olympic fights, but the disqualification stands.

The federation did not specify what Abiyev had done to earn expulsion, saying only that he had committed "a number of breaches" of its code of conduct.



LONDON (AFP) - US great Michael Phelps closed his Olympic individual career in breathtaking style Friday as America ruled the pool and records tumbled on the cycle track. Phelps' last-gasp surge won the 100m butterfly by a whisker from Chad le Clos and Evgeny Korotyshekin, taking his record tally to 21 Olympic medals including 17 golds. Phelps, seventh at the turn, won in 51.21sec to claim his third straight Olympic gold in the event. Meanwhile world record-setter Missy Franklin, Katie Ledecky and Florent Manaudou showed Olympic swimming's future has arrived. Franklin, the 17-year-old American who was stamped for Olympic stardom at last year's world championships, won the 200m backstroke in a world record of 2min 04.06sec to claim her third gold medal of the Games. Her 15-year-old team-mate Ledecky posted the second-fastest time in the history of the women's 800m free to win gold as world record-holder and Beijing gold medallist Rebecca Adlington of Great Britain settled for bronze. And 21-year-old Manaudou, younger brother of France's 2004 Olympic gold medallist Laure Manaudou, won the men's 50m free -- denying Brazilian Cesar Cielo a third straight Olympic crown.

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US gold rush sinks China



China's Zhang Nan (L) and Zhao Yunlei pose with their gold medals

LONDON (AFP) - China slipped to second place in the London Olympics medals

Seoul 1988.

China will look to their divers, badminton players and



China's Dong Dong - Trampoline Champion

count Friday as wins in badminton and trampolining were outdone by an American gold rush in the pool.

The six-day leaders, who also ruled the roost at Beijing 2008, were just one gold behind the United States -- 20 to 21 -- but with athletics, a rich mine for American medals, only just under way.

World champions Japan humbled Brazil 2-0 to reach the women's football semi-finals, easing the delegation's disquiet at being knocked off top spot in the judo competition for the first time since

table tennis stars to maintain their flow of medals.

Yesterday, world champions Zhang Nan and Zhao Yunlei, who are romantically involved, won the badminton mixed doubles 21-11, 21-17 against team-mates Xu Chen and Ma Jin.

It began what China hope will be a sweep of all five badminton titles -- a bid which was rocked when top seeds Yu Yang and Wang Xiaoli were among eight players kicked out of the women's doubles for playing to lose.

Men's champion Lin Dan

set up a dream final with great rival Lee Chong Wei, who is recovering fast from a serious ankle injury, in what will help organisers move on from the 'throwing' scandal.

Malaysia's Lee downed fourth seed Chen Long 21-13, 21-14, and Lin beat South Korea's Lee Hyun-Il 21-12, 21-10 to set up a rematch of the 2008 final -- and last year's gripping world title match, won by Lin at Wembley Arena.

"I was not the favourite to win this match," said top seed Lee, who has battled back to fitness with intense rehab and stem-cell treatment.

"This is not Lee Chong Wei at his best. But I was determined to prove a lot of people wrong."

China stayed on course for the unprecedented feat of winning all eight diving titles when Wu Minxia, seeking a record-equalling sixth Olympic medal, led the preliminary round of the women's 3m springboard.

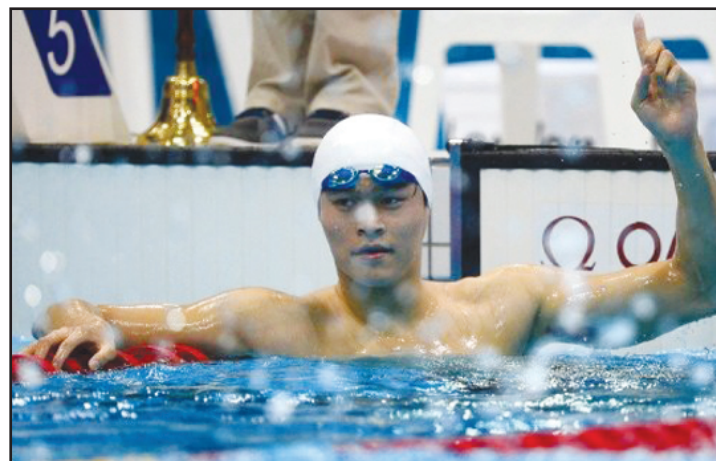
Dong Dong won the men's trampoline, usurping the title of Chinese team-mate Lu Chunlong, who is also world champion in the discipline and took bronze.

South Korea claimed the Olympic Games men's team sabre fencing gold, beating Romania 45-26 in the final, while Oh Jin-Hyek extended their dominance in the archery events by winning the men's individual competition.

South Korea, who set a modest target of 10 titles for the Games, already have nine which puts them third on the medals table, ahead of hosts Great Britain.

But Japan were left to contemplate a medal-less showing for their male judokas which means that, for the first time in 24 years, they cannot finish as the competition's most successful nation.

Japan have just one judo



Sun Yang

gold so far, through women's under-57kg world champion Kaori Matsumoto. Japan are currently 13th on the medals table, with North Korea eighth.

"It is my responsibility. Technically we were good but mentally and in terms of power we were weak," said men's coach Shinichi Shinohara. "I don't think the rest of

the world has got better but mentally athletes from the other countries are stronger."

Today, the last evening of pool action, China can bet the house on a gold medal for world champion and world record-holder Sun Yang in the 1500m. Sun, with the 400m title in the bag, topped qualifying with 14min 43.25sec.



LONDON (AFP) - Poland's Adrian Zielinski caused an upset to win the Olympic Games men's 85kg weightlifting gold medal on Friday with a total lift of 385kg as China's defending champion Lu Yong flopped. Russia's 19-year-old Ahti Aukhadov lifted the same weight but took silver on bodyweight while Iran's Kianoush Rostami, with a total of 380kg, claimed the bronze. Zielinski took the title with a snatch lift of 174 and lifting 211 on his third attempt in the clean and jerk. On a gripping night's competition at the ExCel arena Lu, China's Beijing Games champion, failed to repeat his heroics of four years ago. Lu was leading after the snatch, but failed in his three attempts to lift 205kg in the clean and jerk. Zielinski was winning Poland's first weightlifting gold since Zygmunt Smalcerz won the men's 56kg title at the 1972 Munich Games and only their second in the 85kg category after Ireneusz Palinski in Rome 1960.